



SDMS Doc ID 2003526

0000034

DATE: January 13, 1983

ISSUE: What is the status of the sites of the Insular Territories under CERCLA?

SIGNIFICANCE TO AGENCY: Major. The sites of the Insular Territories are on the Interim Priorities List as the states' highest priority sites and have been proposed for the National Priorities List.

NEXT CRITICAL DATE: April, 1983. The feasibility study report is expected to be completed.

RESPONSE/CURRENT EPA POSITION: The EPA zone contractor is currently preparing a remedial investigation report and feasibility study for remedial actions at the states' highest priority sites. EPA will maintain the lead role in addressing these sites. EPA will continue to work with the Territorial governments in identifying additional sites which may require action under CERCLA.

BACKGROUND:

PCB Warehouse, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The PCB Warehouse is a temporary shelter built as an interim storage facility for approximately 1,400 gallons of PCB transformer fluid (concentrations up to 25,000 ppm PCB). The structure is within 1,000 feet of the Philippine Sea. Because of the potential for typhoons, the existing shelter is not adequate. Accidental or storm caused release of the PCB fluid could affect potable ground water and marine resources.

PCB Waste Sites, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The islands of Palau, Yap, Truk, Ponape, Kosrae and Majuro have storage areas which contain PCB transformers. The storage sites are unprotected and unsecured. There is concern for potential contamination of potable ground water, marine water, and associated marine resources. There is also the potential for direct human contact.

Ordot Landfill, Guam.

The Ordot Landfill has been in use for more than forty years, mostly as an open dump. There is no present segregation of hazardous from nonhazardous waste and there are no accurate records of what was disposed at the landfill. All wastes are presently covered. The current landfill

occupies 47 acres and plans call for possible expansion to 74 acres. Surface water and leachate drain from the site into the Pago River which discharges into Pago Bay. The concern is for potential direct human contact with the waste and contamination of marine resources.

Potential Additional Sites, Insular Territories.

Territory health officials have informed EPA of possible additional hazardous waste sites and requested investigations. We have requested more information about the alleged sites in order to develop an EPA position and course of action. In the event that any of these sites should require either a "remedial response" or "planned removal," efforts will be made to combine the action needed at the additional sites with that to be performed at the highest priority sites. This would be more cost-effective than conducting two separate actions.

Taputimu Farm, Tutuila Island, American Samoa.

The Taputimu Farm is part of an agricultural experimental farm owned by the Territory. The site consists of a warehouse, which has been used for over ten years, for the storage of unused chemicals and pesticides. Many of the containers are leaking and have illegible markings or no labels. Known chemicals include tetra chlor (2,4,5T), dieldrin, methoxychlor, and sodium pentachlorophenate. It is estimated that 4,000 pounds of hazardous waste are on site. The warehouse is located in a depression, approximately 100 feet above sea level and 1/4 mile from a public beach. Flooding of the warehouse has occurred and some contaminated materials have probably soaked into the surrounding ground and may have been transported to the beach by surface water. The concern is for potential direct human contact with the waste, and contamination of marine resources and potable ground water. The Tafuna Power Plant, a nearby government facility, is the storage site for PCB transformers and capacitors.

In November, 1982, \$135,858 was obligated for a remedial investigation/feasibility study of the sites of the Insular Territories. Local cost sharing was waived pursuant to the Omnibus Territories Act (PL 95-134). Two three-man teams spent five weeks in the field during November and December conducting site investigations and collecting about 300 samples. A summary of the field investigations was presented to EPA

in early December. The zone contractor is presently waiting for the sample data analyses from the contract laboratories. The report is expected to be completed in April, 1983.

KEY CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen G. Shimmin
Chief, Compliance and Response Branch
Toxics and Waste Management Division
Duty Phone: (415) 974-7466, (FTS) 454-7466
Home Phone: (415) 525-1803